**Oxford – BMS Translational Research Fellowship Programme 2021**

Please note that this is the same fellowship programme as the previously named Oxford-Celgene Translational Research Fellowship.

Celgene was acquired by Bristol Myers Squibb in 2019.

Guidance for Applicants

<https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/research/internal/funding-directory/oxford-BMS-fellowship#about>

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# Introduction

BMS is a global biopharmaceutical company that uses cutting-edge technology and innovative science to discover new medicines for patients. In partnership with the Oxford Medical Sciences Division, BMS has co-developed and provided support for a Translational Research Fellowship Programme funding 3-4 fellowships per year.

The goals of this scheme are to stimulate new scientific discovery and translation and to facilitate skills and people transfer between researchers in academia and industry. The programme offers fellows an opportunity to gain exposure to the field of commercial drug discovery and development. Fellows will have an assigned company mentor and where appropriate be encouraged to spend some time based in BMS's laboratories.

Fellowships are postdoctoral level with a duration of 3 years and are fully funded by BMS.

# BMS Areas of Interest

The proposed fellowship needs to align with BMS’s fields of interest as listed below.

1. Novel targets, biomarkers, cellular therapeutic approaches, or translational models in one of the following areas:
	* 1. immuno-oncology;
		2. neurodegenerative and neuroinflammatory diseases including Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, ALS, FTD and MS;
		3. fibrosing disorders including IPF, NASH, scleroderma, and Renal Fibrosis;
		4. rheumatic and dermatologic disorders including RA, SLE, spondyloarthropathies, psoriasis and atopic dermatitis; or
		5. hematologic disorders including AML, Myeloma, DLBCL.
		6. chronic heart failure (either with preserved or reduced ejection fraction)
	1. Methods for evaluating biochemical, cellular, tissue and phenotypic consequences of modulating epigenetic targets.
	2. Methods for immuno-phenotyping of human subjects in oncology and autoimmunity
	3. Novel imaging approaches to measuring disease activity in the above areas.

# General Guidance

***Who can apply?***

Applications need to be made by the Principle Investigator (PI) (and not by the prospective fellow). You can apply with or without a named fellow at the time of application. If you do not have a named fellow on your application and you are successful, we strongly recommend waiting until the contracting of the project agreement with BMS is finalised and signed by all parties before recruiting for a fellow. This contracting process can take around 12 weeks from notification of the award.

***Who can be a fellow?***

Fellows can be laboratory based or computational postdoctoral research scientists who are committed to translational science and are grade 7/8

**or**

Clinical fellows who are interested in obtaining experience with drug development in an industrially collaborative setting and are grade E64.

***Clinical Fellows***

* Salary top ups for clinical fellows exceeding E64 are at the discretion of and must be provided by the department.
* Clinical fellows may complete a DPhil as part of the Oxford-BMS Fellowship – please include college fees in your X5.

***When could I expect a fellowship to start?***

* For projects **with a named fellow** - you could expect to have a project start date of 01 October 2021.
* For projects **without a named fellow** – you could expect a project start date of 01 January 2022 – recruitment for the fellow can begin once contracting is complete.

***How are the projects contracted?***

We endeavour to ensure the contracting process is as smooth and fast as possible and provide guidance at the notification stage as to how you can help to move the project through contracting efficiently.

# How to apply – 2 stage process

***Stage 1 - Pre-application questions and meeting with BMS***

The Oxford-BMS Fellowship Programme strongly encourages you to take **pre-application steps** before submitting your application. The pre-application steps ensure that your proposal is in line with BMS’s areas of research interest. The submitted pre-application questions will be shared with BMS to identify the appropriate BMS scientist to discuss your proposal during a 45 minute virtual meeting in February 2021.

Pre-application steps summary:

* ***Pre-application questions (***[***form available on MSD website***](https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/research/internal/funding-directory/oxford-BMS-fellowship/how-to-apply)***)***
* Fill and submit the pre-application questions to Charlotte Bell by no later than Friday 22nd January 2021 at 5pm.
* BMS will consider the pre-application questions
* Charlotte will be in touch in early February to introduce the BMS scientists who will discuss the pre-application with you
* PIs are responsible for arranging the virtual meeting with BMS
* Feedback will be provided following the meeting to guide you as to whether to apply to the programme or not.

***Stage 2 - Full application – Deadline Wednesday 14th April 5pm***

Full applications should be made using the [application form downloadable from the website](https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/research/internal/funding-directory/oxford-BMS-fellowship/how-to-apply). Please observe the page limitations specified in the form (see section 6 for more detail).

Full applications (and associated CV of named fellow) should be combined into one PDF. This along with the X5 costing should be emailed to charlotte.bell@medsci.ox.ac.uk by the deadline of Wednesday 14th April at 5pm.

***Departmental involvement and sign off***

Applicants should notify their departmental administrators before submitting an application and an X5 costing should be created for the fellowship project and submitted with the full application. Furthermore, Head of Department as well as departmental administrator signatures are required in the application form. Please make sure that your Department administrator is aware of the financial stipulations in sections 6 and 7 of this document.

***External Collaborators***

If you are considering external co-applicants or collaborators (particularly in case of external organisations being allocated a budget portion in your work plan), please get in touch with Charlotte Bell in advance of your application.

# Timeline and Deadlines



Seminars and Q&A to introduce the fellowships scheme are being held on:

* Thursday 17th December 12 noon - <https://medsci.zoom.us/j/95995070200>
* Friday 18th December 12 noon - <https://medsci.zoom.us/j/97316877440>
* Thursday 7th January 12 noon - <https://medsci.zoom.us/j/94930054532>
* Friday 8th January 12 noon - <https://medsci.zoom.us/j/91560425465>

Pre-application deadlin***e*** Friday 22nd January 2021 at 5pm.

Full application deadline Wednesday 14th April at 5pm.

# Full Application Form Guidance

Applicants must use the application form provided for the fellowship scheme. [The form can be downloaded from the call website](https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/research/internal/funding-directory/oxford-BMS-fellowship#how-to-apply). The following points need to be adhered to:

* Head of Department as well as Departmental Administrator (or Grants Manager) **signatures** need to be provided on the first page of the application form (electronic signatures are accepted)
* A **maximum of 5 pages** for the project proposal. The 5-page limit includes graphs, figures, but excludes references.
* If you have a named fellow, **a CV of maximum 3 pages** should be included with the application (this is outside of the 5 page limit stated above)
* Please combine the application and CV into one PDF.

# Cost & Budget Guidance

* The budget should be created in GBP through the University’s X5 costing tool at 100% Full Economic Cost (this is due to our master agreement with BMS)
* Please choose Celgene Corporation as the funder and GBP as the currency
* Fellowships are for **3 years** and include one Grade 7 or 8 scientific fellow or one Grade E64 clinical fellow
* Non-staff costs include a maximum of £20,000 consumables per year and £5,000- travel costs per year (covers travel to BMS and to conferences)
* DPhil fees may be covered for a clinical fellow
* **For any anticipated deviation** from the above standard budgeting of the fellowship, **applicants must contact Charlotte Bell** (MSD Business Partnerships Office) in advance of your submission. These deviations could include:
* Higher consumables costs
* Use of specialized facilities or equipment
* Animal costs
* Visa costs
* Costs linked to IP
* Publication costs
* Recruitment advertising costs and Principle Investigator costs **are NOT eligible.**

# Review & Assessment

Fellowship proposals are reviewed by a Joint Steering Committee. Project assessment and selection are driven by strategic alignment with BMS’s portfolio, scientific excellence and internal BMS expertise to provide mentorship to projects.

Should questions arise from BMS during the assessment process, applicants may be contacted by the MSD Business Partnerships Office to request more information or clarification.

If successful, applicants will be required to liaise with BMS to jointly review, adapt and confirm the work plan in June/early July. Once both parties agree the work plan, the project will move into contracting.

Steering Committee members:

* Professor Sir Marc Feldmann (Oxford)
* Professor Fiona Powrie (Oxford)
* Professor Chas Bountra (Oxford)
* Professor Irene Tracey (Oxford)
* Dr. Rupert Vessey (BMS)
* Dr Leon Carayannopoulos (BMS)
* Dr James Carmichael (BMS)
* Dr Anjan Thakurta (BMS)

# Contact

For all enquiries please contact Charlotte Bell, Business Partnerships Manager, Medical Sciences Business Partnerships Office.

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